




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.04 pm): I want to bring to the attention of the House something that is very serious. I also want to bring it to the attention of the Commissioner for Police and her delegates and the Minister for Police and his delegates. What I raise is contempt of parliament. Standing order 266 states that ‘deliberately misleading the House or a committee (by way of submission, statement, evidence or petition)’ is an offence in this House.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr WATTS: If the member for Pine Rivers would just pipe down; I am not taking her interjections—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Direct your comments through the chair, member for Toowoomba North.

Mr WATTS: I will certainly put my comments through the chair. This is a really important matter. It is about the transparency and functioning of this House and it deserves to be heard. She should be silent.

Section 57 of the Criminal Code, ‘False evidence before Parliament’ says—

A person who, during examination before the Legislative Assembly or a committee, knowingly gives a false answer to a lawful and relevant question put to the person during the examination commits a crime.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, if you want to raise a matter of privilege you should mention it briefly and then write to the Speaker directly. An adjournment speech is not the time to run through that argument.

Mr WATTS: I have written to the Speaker twice on this matter and I have been advised to now raise it in the House, so I will. What I would like to say is this.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I will get some advice. Just to confirm: you are not raising this as a matter of privilege?

Mr WATTS: I am not raising this as a matter of privilege. I am told that the roster for the Police Service is held in ITAS—the Intelligence, Tactical and Analysis System—and it is accessible by any police officer or staff member with access to the system. A person with suitable access can obtain all information about the roster for all stations and establishments across the state via an easy-to-use dashboard. This information includes how many officers are rostered on and officers sick, absent or on courses. This information can be obtained via the resource sheet, roster or other reports within the system. It is extremely quick and extremely simple. For example, the time needed to add up how many general duties officers worked on each day in Toowoomba during a fortnight would not take more than 20 minutes. It also reports those sick and other things.

I am curious and I would like to remind the people who act as agents of the two people aforementioned, that when I asked a question on notice in this House and I referred to the number of rostered officers in January, the answer came back saying that the January roster commenced 31 December and ended 27 January, and the duty officer level—I will table this so people can read the details—basically fluctuated.

Tabled paper: Answer to question on notice No. 345 asked on 30 March 2023 [864](#).

Tabled paper: Answer to question on notice No. 18 asked on 21 February 2023 [865](#).

I asked a second question. The second question I asked was: will the minister advise the number of general duties staff who worked on each day in the 28-day roster from 31 December to 27 January at the Toowoomba police station? In that regard, I accept the QPS advice that diverting police personnel away from key community safety responsibilities for the manual examination of paperwork is not in the interests of community safety. What is, is knowing how many officers were on and why this government wants to hide it consistently.